

REMARKS

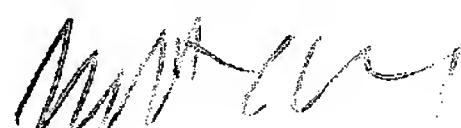
The Applicant sincerely appreciates the thorough examination of the present application as evidenced by the Office Action of March 23, 2009 (the Office Action). In particular, the Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that Claim 22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In response, the Applicant has amended independent Claim 10 to include all recitations of dependent Claims 21 and 22 so that amended Claim 10 includes the subject matter of Claim 22, which the Examiner indicated to be allowable. The Applicant has also amended Claim 24 so that Claim 24 includes all recitations of Claims 10, 21, and 22 (which the Examiner has indicated to be allowable), and added dependent Claims 25-31 depending from Claim 24 (with recitations corresponding to those of Claims 13-14 and 16-20). In addition, the Applicant has canceled Claims 1-5, 7-9, and 21-23.

Accordingly, Claim 10 has been placed in a condition that the Examiner has indicated to be allowable, and dependent Claims 13-14 and 16-20 are patentable at least as per the patentability of Claim 10 from which they depend. Moreover, amended Claim 24 is patentable as including the subject matter of Claims 10, 21, and 22 (which has been indicated to be allowable), and new dependent Claims 25-31 are patentable at least as per the patentability of Claim 24 from which they depend. The claim amendments and cancellations presented herein have been made to advance prosecution of this application to allowance without prejudice to the Applicant's right to pursue claims as previously presented (e.g., in the Application as originally filed, in the Preliminary Amendment of December 5, 2005, in the Amendment of August 14, 2008, and/or in the Amendment of January 5, 2009) in one or more continuing and/or divisional applications.

Attorney Docket No. 9563-11
Application Serial No. 10/559,509
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Page 7

Accordingly, the Applicant submits that all pending claims in the present application are in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested in due course. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone should any additional issues need to be addressed.

Respectfully submitted,

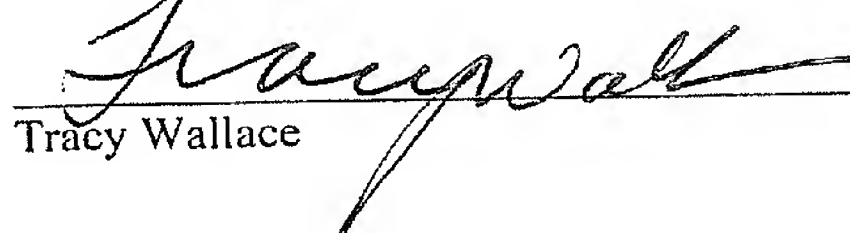


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CERTIFICATION OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via the Office electronic filing system in accordance with § 1.6(a)(4) to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on June 17, 2009.


Tracy Wallace